ed "75 per cent P&T funds unutilised : CAG" appearing in the daily Financial Express Bombay dated the 5th August, '91 indicating that the Postal Department had not utilised 75 per cent of the funds made available during the Seventh Plan for expansion of postal services in rural areas;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that only 3007 new Post Offices were opened during the period 1985—89 against the targetted 6000;

(c) if so, whether Government have made any analysis of the factors for not achieving the target, especially when funds were already ear-marked for the programmes; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) A news item to this effect has come to Government's notice.

(b) A reference to this effect has been made in the C&AG Report on the Department of Posts for the year 1989-90. However, during the Seventh Five Year Plan 4371 Post Offices were sanctioned as against the target of 6000. The difference between the number of post offices sanctioned and the number of post offices actually opened is largely due to the time lag between these two activities.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The shortfall in the target of 6000 fixed for the 7th Plan was due mainly to the ban on creation of posts and time consuming procedure obtaining then for opening of post offices. As a result of this ban, during the first two years of the Seventh Plan namely, 1985-86 and 1986-87 only 25 post offices could be opened. Subsequently when some relaxation was announced by the Government in this regard, the pace of sanctioning of post offices got accelerated.

Overcrowding in Tihar Jail

*136. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Tihar Jail is overcrowded; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) To augment jail capacity three more barracks, which will accommodate 300 inmates, are being added to existing jail No. 3 in the Tihar Jail Complex. The Delhi Administration has also approved a proposal to construct two new jails which will accommodate 1400 inmates.

Target fixed for providing telephone connections to Villages

*137. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have fixed a target to provide at least one telephone connection to every village within a time frame;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) the number of villages in the State of Madhya Pradesh which have so far been provided with telephone connections; and

(d) by when Government propose to provide telephone connections to rest of the villages in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Around 5.7 lakh villages are likely to be covered in the country for telephone facility by 2000 AD.

(c) Telephone facility has been extended to 4305 villages in the State of Madhya Pradesh so far.

(d) By 2000 AD.